

Mr. Carter informs me that the *Haliphysema tubulatum* (P. Z. S. 1873, p. 29, t. vii.) is a massive form of his *Dictyocylindrus* of the British coast; the colour and spicules are nearly the same. There is, in the collection of Ceylon sponges, a specimen whose complement of spicules equals, if not surpasses, all sponges of its kind. See Mr. Carter's description and illustration of this species, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1871, vii. p. 263, t. 17, from a small piece found on *Ectyon sparsus*. Mr. Holdsworth's specimen is half as big as a man's head. This sponge is my *Acarnus innominatus*.

Mr. Carter informs me, *Isodictya Donnani* of this paper is no *Isodictya* at all! It is allied to *Dictyocylindrus*. It is of a fibrous horny structure, the spicules in distinct fibres in little tufts on the surface at the end, whereas *Isodictya* has no horny fibre, only spicules matted into a kind of fibre with amorphous sarcode. This sponge is very abundant on the Pearl-banks; indeed we have specimens of it in the British Museum, presented by Captain Belcher; and I greatly doubt its being an unnamed species.

Mr. Carter finds *Spongionella* has a simple horny fibre, not enclosed in any sand or spicule, confirming its being *Spongia papyracea* of Esper.

*On Ursus euryrhinus, Nilsson.* By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

In the 'Catalogue of Carnivorous Mammalia in the British Museum,' p. 235, I referred to the genus *Helarctos*, with doubt, a bear described by Prof. Nilsson in his account of Swedish Mammalia, under the name of *Ursus euryrhinus*, which he described from a skull in the Museum of Lund, said to have come from Hungary.

Prof. Nilsson, in February of this year, kindly presented to the British Museum a plaster cast of this skull, by which I observe that the skull is evidently from an animal long kept in confinement, and much altered from its usual shape, so that I should be unable to determine to what species it really belongs, or even whether it is distinct from the common European bear.

*File-fish (Balistes capriscus) at Weymouth.*

A specimen of the file-fish was taken on the 14th of May off the Portland Breakwater, on a pout-line baited with a lobworm, and has been sent to the British Museum by Mr. William Thompson, who has kindly made the following notes:—

"The fish was  $14\frac{1}{2}$  inches long to the centre of the caudal fin; the length from the caudal to the extremity of the longer outer ray 2 inches, making the entire length  $16\frac{1}{2}$  inches; the greatest depth  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches. The colour dark smoky grey, very much lighter (almost white) on the under parts; the two dorsal, the anal, and caudal fins spotted, lined, and blotched with ultramarine blue." Mr. Thompson observes that the illustrations of Couch and Yarrell must have been taken from a fish that had lost the outer ray of the caudal fin, which is the case with Couch's specimen which he sent to the British Museum. Mr. Thompson says that he has taken two anchovies, a sea-lamprey 14, and a sand-launce  $12\frac{1}{2}$  inches long.

The file-fish has been several times during the summer season